(c) and (d) Following relaxation in rice specification has been extended to the State of Punjab during Kharif Marketing Season 1998-99

Rice stocks can be procured with:

(i) Damaged Slightly damaged grains upto a maximum limit of 4.5% in respect of raw and parboiled rice both of Grade 'A' and common varieties.

(ii) Discoloured grains upto a maximum limit of 8% in respect of raw & parboiled rice both of grade 'A' and Common varieties.

(iii) Broken grains upto a maximum limit of 27% in raw rice both of Grade 'A' and common varieties.

Procurement of rice

1909. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had completed procurement of rice in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the expected quantity for procurement; and

(d) whether Government would complete the quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Procurement of paddy/rice is in progress and will continue till 30.9.1999. A quantity of 90.02 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured for Central upto 8.3.1999 in the current Kharif Marketing Season 1998-99.

(c) and (d) The procurement of paddy under price support scheme is purely voluntary in nature, as only the paddy offered by the farmers can be procured. Similarly the collection of rice under levy scheme also depends on the purchase of paddy made by the millers. Hence, no targets are fixed for procurement of rice.

However, the procurement of rice is likely to be between 110 to 120 lakh tonnes in the Kharif Marketing Season 1998-99.

Making Diploma in Homoeopathy Essential for Homoeopathic Pharmacist

1910. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to consider Diploma in Homoeopathy an essential qualification for Homoeopathic Pharmacists working at present on experience basis in various dispensaries/hospitals/ units in the country causing great obstacles in the system-based Homoeopathic Science; and

(b) what are the details of steps being taken by Government for establishment of recognised institutes, prescribing Homoeopathic Pharmacy syllabus and for registration in established Homoeopathic Pharmacy Councils in the country; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) There is no such proposal, at present Sir.

(b) At, present, there is no regulatory Council to impart uniform education for Homoeopathic Pharmacists. However, the Govt. had set up and expert committee for preparation of project report on Pharmacy Education in Homoeopathy. The Committee has submitted its report. The same is under consideration of the Government.